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# OU Law Updates

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## Staff changes



**Morgan Hager** joined the College of Law staff in October as associate director of the Office of Professional and Career Development. She previously worked as the recruiting and associate development coordinator in the Oklahoma City office of Crowe & Dunlevy PC.



**Natalie Andrews** joined the staff in late October as the assistant to Dean Harroz. Prior to coming to OU Law, she worked in Los Angeles, New York City and Paris as a publicity coordinator and executive assistant to principals of various companies.



**Sandra Sobrado** completed 19 years of service with the College of Law before leaving in December to pursue other opportunities. Since August 2011, she has served as facilities director and events coordinator. Prior to that, Sobrado worked more than 17 years as assistant to the dean, spanning the terms of three previous deans.

### ► OU Law launches new program admitting outstanding undergrads

The OU College of Law is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications from exceptionally talented undergraduates who will have completed 98 hours of undergraduate credit by the first day of law school. They also must have completed all their general education and major degree requirements before enrolling in the College of Law. An undergraduate degree will be awarded by the undergraduate university upon the successful completion of the first year of law school. To date, OU and OSU are partnering with the College of Law in this endeavor to cut the cost of higher education. For more information visit [www.law.ou.edu/content/juris-doctor-1](http://www.law.ou.edu/content/juris-doctor-1).

### ► Owl Ceremony and Academic Convocation welcomes Class of 2015

The Class of 2015 was welcomed at the 2012 Owl Ceremony and Academic Convocation August 17 in the Dick Bell Courtroom. President David L. Boren ('68) addresses the first-year students before they took the professionalism oath administered by Chief Justice Steven W. Taylor ('74).



## ► Class of 2015 reflects diverse experiences, accomplishments

*by Rachel Worthen, OU Law editorial intern*



The first-year class of 155 students boasts a variety of interests and accomplishments. A look at the class demonstrates their varied backgrounds.

High academic standards are a necessity to study law at the University of Oklahoma, and the new J.D. class meets those standards without question. The class boasts:

- One Fulbright Scholar
- One Gates Millennium Scholar
- One ABA Legal Scholars Fund Recipient
- Students from 54 undergraduate schools
- Students with 41 different undergraduate degrees
- Seven students with master's degrees
- Eight National Merit Scholars
- One Academic All Big 12 Athlete

The class also includes students from a wide variety of professions. These professionals include:

- The former youngest mayor in America
- Asia-Pacific Cryptologic Linguist
- Eight members of the United States military
- 12 teachers
- Three debate coaches
- One nurse
- One pilot
- One musician
- One real estate agent
- One landman
- One investment banker
- One architect

Not only does the class excel in academia, but the students also excel in a variety of extracurricular interests. The class contains:

- Students who speak 11 different native languages (including Swahili, Farsi, Cantonese and Arabic)
- The 2010 Miss Black Oklahoma USA winner
- Five Eagle Scouts
- One black belt in taekwondo
- One student who has visited 25 countries
- Students from eight Big 12 schools

## ► OU Law Board of Visitors

Robert H. Alexander, Jr.	Glen Johnson
Thomas R. Brett	Mike Lauderdale
Bill W. Burgess	Dan Little
Sean Burrage	Michael C. Mayhall
Robin J. Cauthron	John M. Mee
V. Glenn Coffee	D. Kent Meyers
James T. Comfort	John M. Nelson
William T. Comfort, Jr.	Armand Paliotta
James F. Davis	William G. Paul
Larry Derryberry	W. DeVier Pierson
J. Jerry Dickman	Gary Pierson
Tricia Everest	J. Hugh Roff
Gary Fuller	William J. Ross
Arch B. Gilbert	N. Martin Stringer
John E. Green	James M. Sturdivant
Melvin Hall	Steven W. Taylor
C. Brad Henry	Kathryn Taylor
Laura Buckley Hood	Ralph G. Thompson
Cheryl Hunter	Mart Tisdal

## ► Chesapeake Energy visits with students about careers in energy



The Office of Professional and Career Development brought Chesapeake Energy employees to OU Law September 6 to speak with students interested in the energy industry. Pictured at the noon event are Theresa Baumann ('12); Merideth Bently ('10); Casey Delaney ('05), OPCD director; Addie Triska; Garrett Purdum; and Elizabeth Base ('94), OPCD associate director.

## ► Amar speaks on unwritten Constitution

Nationally recognized constitutional scholar Akhil Reed Amar addressed an overflow lunch crowd September 18 in the Kerr Student Lounge. Amar, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University, spoke about "America's Unwritten Constitution and the Art of Constitutional Interpretation."

Calling the U.S. Constitution "the hinge of modern human history," Amar noted that 225 years ago when the document was proposed for adoption, most of the world's population lived under some form of non-democratic rule. Since that time, a global transformation has occurred, inspired by the American democratic experience. Now, he said, roughly half the planet lives under democracy of some sort.

Amar said the text of U.S. Constitution does not explicitly list all of the rules, rights, principles and procedures that we accept as integral pieces of American law. "Not everything we hold dear is in the document," he said. "It needs an unwritten Constitution to complete the interpretation."



After responding to audience questions, Amar signed copies of his newest book, *America's Unwritten Constitution*.

Our nation's collection of values, precedents, traditions and practices complement and complete the actual text of the document, he explained. When used properly, these extra-textual aids support and clarify the written document and do not diminish it.



## ► OU Law celebrates Amicus Café grand opening

The ribbon-cutting for the opening of the Amicus Café on the first floor of Coats Hall was held at noon on October 17. Attendees sampled new items on the café's expanded menu. In addition, from 4 to 6 p.m., the café hosted an "Oxford-style" pub night for students and professors to enjoy the new space and allow Oxford Summer Program participants to reunite.

The updated café features expanded seating options, including five tables with booth seating and several square wooden tables that can be rearranged into conference tables to allow the space to be used for meetings. In the southwest corner is a lounge area with a large leather couch, four flat screen televisions and two armchairs.

The renovation began last October after a law school survey revealed that one of the biggest changes OU Law students desired was an updated café. Amicus Café previously had been more like a small convenience store with mostly prepackaged or premade food items.

The renovation was made possible thanks to a donation of \$200,000 from the Oklahoma City law firm McAfee & Taft. Part of the donation also funds the *Oklahoma Law Review* annual symposium.

"Thanks to a generous gift from McAfee & Taft, we have been able to bring Amicus Café in line with the remainder of our beautiful, state-of-the-art facility," OU Law Dean Joseph Harroz said. "The café is now a warm and welcoming space for our students and faculty members to gather, socialize and collaborate."



## ► Calvert competitors argue Supreme Court case

The final round of the annual Calvert Moot Court Competition was held October 19 in the Dick Bell Courtroom. The competition, sponsored by the Floyd and Irma Calvert Fund for Law and Liberty, centered on a case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court involving the use of race in university undergraduate admission decisions.

After multiple elimination rounds, the two remaining teams argued the case before a panel of seven judges. Due to unusual circumstances, one of the teams consisted of only one person. Ultimately, Denise Davick won the competition on a split decision over the team of Joseph Allen and Milly Daniels.



Third-year student Denise Davick was named the winner of the 2012 Calvert Moot Court Competition.



The team of third-year students Milly Daniels and Joseph Allen was runner-up in the competition. Allen did double duty during the preliminary rounds when he agreed to argue with Davick, who was without a partner.

## ► First-year students network with Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville

The Oklahoma City firm of Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville once again hosted first-year law students at a networking reception at their office on September 20. Students interacted with numerous Hartzog attorneys and gained valuable advice regarding being successful in the practice of law. At the reception, Armand Paliotta (center), partner of the firm and a member of the OU Law Class of 1992, visits with OPCD Director Casey Delaney ('05) and Assistant Dean for Students Scott Palk ('92).



## ► OAWL auction raises record amount to benefit Women's Resource Center



Second-year students John Albert and Matthew Patton greet guests at the door and collect admission for the 24th Annual OAWL Auction.

An Oklahoma City Thunder fan pack, a free night at the Hard Rock Hotel, salon packages, area restaurant gift certificates and fun evenings out with OU Law professors were among the many

items up for bid October 25 at Sooner Legends. Hosted by the Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law, the 24th annual auction raised a record-setting \$14,550 to benefit the Women's Resource Center of Norman. The funds support the center's community programming for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

"The Organization for the Advancement of Women in Law has been helping us for over 23 years, and their donation has come to be a kind of support that we can depend on in difficult times," said Joann Smith, executive director of the Women's Resource Center of Norman. "We appreciate their support even more because it is women helping women, and that is what our center is all about."

► **OBA committee visits OU Law**

The Oklahoma Bar Association Law Schools Committee visited the College of Law on September 7 and heard reports from faculty, staff and students updating them on the state of the law school.



► **Fellers Snider joins OPCD in orientation**



First-year students were introduced to the resources available through the Office of Professional and Career Development at an October 18 orientation, sponsored by the law firm of Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey and Tippens PC. Firm members provided advice about summer clerkships and hosted a reception in the Boren Atrium after the program. Joining 2L Justin Hedges (left) and Casey Delaney ('05), OPCD director (center), are members of the firm Sofia Nagda ('10), Nick Merkley ('04) and Curt Long ('74).

► **Order of Coif initiates 20**

The initiation of new members into the Oklahoma Chapter of the Order of the Coif on November 3 included 19 members of the Class of 2012 and Norman attorney Micheal Salem ('75). The initiation ceremony, held in the Dick Bell Courtroom, was conducted by professors David Swank ('59) and Jonathan Forman and was preceded by dinner in the Chapman Reading Room.



Twelve of the new initiates stand with professors Swank and Forman in the Dick Bell Courtroom.

**2012 Initiates**

Vickie Lea Adams	Erin Coleman Kessler
Teresa Elizabeth Baumann	Amy Kathleen Lewis
Joel Borkenhagen	Shivan V. Mehta
Matthew Kemp Brown	Barbara McHugh Moschovidis
Elizabeth A. Cooper	Ashley Jennifer Nguyen
Jessica Nicole Cory	Devan R. Patrick
Jacob Samuel Crawford	Amanda Nicole Pennington
Stuart David Edwards	James Michael Scears
Michael Andrew Furlong	Sean Charles Wagner
David Randolph Gleason	
Honorary initiate – Micheal Salem	



## ► Race Judicata benefits two causes



The horn sounds and participants are off and running.



Some of the participants choose a more leisurely pace.

Race Judicata, the annual 5K race and fundraiser sponsored by the Student Bar Association, was held November 4. The family-oriented, dog-friendly event also included music and a cookout following the race.

Proceeds from the race support the OU Legal Clinic's Cindy Foley Scholarship and Oklahoma Lawyers for Children. The scholarship goes to students who work in the OU Legal Clinic, providing representation to people who could otherwise not afford it. Oklahoma Lawyers for Children works with more than 1,000 attorneys and volunteers to protect the rights of abused, neglected and deprived children in Oklahoma County.

"Race Judicata is a great way to spend time with friends at OU while raising money for programs dedicated to public service," said OU Law Dean Joe Harroz. "This race is growing and has become a meaningful annual, community event."



The runners check in before the race.



► Alumni meet for lunch high above Oklahoma City



Dean Joe Harroz updates alumni on OU Law news.

The annual OU Law Alumni Luncheon was held November 14 on the 50th floor of the Devon Energy Center. Traditionally held on the opening day of the Oklahoma Bar Association Annual Meeting, the event provides an opportunity for alumni to reunite and learn the latest news of the College of Law.

Renée DeMoss ('84,) OBA incoming president-elect, presented the Outstanding Senior Law School Student Award to Ashley Powell. Bobby Trail, 1L, and Gigi McCormick, 2L, received Oklahoma Bar Foundation Chapman-Rogers Law School Scholarships, presented by Gabe Bass ('03).



Sarah Schumacher, Christa Evans ('11), Michael Purcell ('11), Ashley Rahill ('11) and Jake Krattiger ('11) visit before the luncheon.



Renée DeMoss presents the Outstanding Senior Law Student Award to Ashley Powell.



Gabe Bass presents the OBF Chapman-Rogers Law School Scholarship to Bobby Trail.



Gigi McCormick accepts the OBF Chapman-Rogers Law School Scholarship from Gabe Bass.